

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-17

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NEA-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SY-10 EB-11 IO-12 SCA-01 SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

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E. O.11652 N/ A

TAGS: SOCI, CASC, ETRN, HO, US

SUBJECT: RECOVERY OF EAL RANSOM MONEY

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 1711

MANAGUA FOR LEGATT

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE ON THIS SUBJECT
ISSUED IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA ON MAY 8: QUOTE:

" THE MONEY PAID IN CONNECTION WITH THE HIJACKING OF AN
EASTERN AIRLINES FLIGHT IN MAY OF 1972 HAS BEEN RECOVERED
AFTER AN EXTENSIVE AND EXHAUSTIVE JOINT INVESTIGATION BY
THE FBI AND THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
(FDLE).

" WILLIAM M. ALEXANDER, SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE OF THE
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JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA, OFFICE OF THE FBI, AND COMMISSIONER WILLIAM L. REED OF THE FDLE, IN A JOINT RELEASE TODAY, ANNOUNCED THAT THE DOLS 303,000 WHICH HAD BEEN PAID TO FREDERICK WILLIAM HAHNEMAN ON MAY 5, 1972, AT DULLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, CHANTILLY, VIRGINIA, IN CONNECTION WITH THE HIJACKING OF EASTERN AIRLINES FLIGHT 175 FROM ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, TO MIAMI, FLORIDA, HAS BEEN RECOVERED BY AGENTS OF THE FDLE AND THE JACKSONVILLE OFFICE OF THE FBI.

" UPON RECOVERY OF THE MONEY, A CHECK WAS MADE OF THE NATIONAL CRIME INFORMATION CENTER, FBI HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, D. C., WHICH DETERMINED THE SERIAL NUMBERS TALLIED WITH THE RANSOM MONEY PAID IN CONNECTION WITH THE HIJACKING.

" ON MAY 5, 1972, EASTERN AIRLINES FLIGHT 175 WAS HIJACKED BY A LONE ARMED GUNMAN WHO DEMANDED AND RECEIVED DOLS 303,000, PARACHUTES, JUMP SUITS, HELMETS, KNIVES, AND 2,000 BENSON AND HEDGES CIGARETTES. AFTER THE MONEY AND EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN PLACED ABOARD THE AIRCRAFT, THE HIJACKER PERMITTED THE PASSENGERS AND ONE STEWARDESS TO DEPLANE. THE AIRCRAFT BEARING SIX CREW MEMBERS AND THE HIJACKER THEN TOOK OFF AND LANDED AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, WHERE THE HIJACKER AND SIX CREW MEMBERS BOARDED ANOTHER AIRCRAFT. DURING THE EARLY MORNING OF MAY 6, 1972, OVER THE JUNGLES NEAR A SMALL TOWN OF YORO, HONDURAS, THE HIJACKER BAILED OUT THROUGH THE LOWERED REAR DOOR.

" THE HIJACKER WAS LATER IDENTIFIED AS FREDERICK WILLIAM HAHNEMAN, A 49- YEAR- OLD EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA, MAN. ON JUNE 3, 1972, HAHNEMAN SURRENDERED TO AUTHORITIES AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN HONDURAS AND HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES. ON SEPTEMBER 29, 1972, HAHNEMAN WAS SENTENCED IN U. S. DISTRICT COURT, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

" ALEXANDER AND REED STATED THAT THE MONEY WAS BEING TURNED OVER TO EASTERN AIRLINES OFFICIALS.

" THE FBI SAID THIS RECOVERY SHOWS THAT HIJACKING AN UNCLASSIFIED

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AIRPLANE FOR EXTORTIONATE DEMANDS IS NOT VERY PROFITABLE. SINCE JUNE 4, 1970, THERE HAVE BEEN 27 HIJACKINGS WHEREIN THE HIJACKERS' EXTORTIONATE DEMANDS AMOUNTED TO DOLS 121,944,100 OF WHICH DOLS 6,656,250 WAS ACTUALLY PAID. OF THE RANSOM DEMANDS PAID, ONLY DOLS 2,200, 000 REMAINS OUTSTANDING, DOLS 2,000,000 OF WHICH IS PRESENTLY IN LITIGATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE NOVEMBER 10, 1972,

HIJACKING OF A SOUTHERN AIRWAYS FLIGHT. THE REMAINING
DOLS 200,000 WAS PAID TO A STILL UNIDENTIFIED HIJACKER
KNOWN ONLY AS D. B. COOPER WHO HIJACKED A PLANE ON
THANKSGIVING EVE, 1971, AND BAILED OUT SOMEWHERE OVER THE
STATES OF WASHINGTON OR OREGON. THE DOLS 200,000 PAID TO
D. B. COOPER IS THE ONLY MONEY UNACCOUNTED FOR." UNQTE

2. LEGATT MANAGUA WILL PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS. ROGERS

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